ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of an adjournment Motion from Mr. Mathew. It reads thus:—

> "I move for the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing an urgent matter of public importance viz., the policy of the Government in detaining Mr. P. T. Punnose without trial."

Mr. Mathew knows or ought to know that this adjournment motion cannot possibly be admitted. I think I will not be inflicting any surprise on him when I disallow the motion.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: On a point of Order. Yesterday the Dewan President read out to the honourable members a letter of mine in which I requested the President to allow an Adjournment Motion with regard to the scarcity of Text Books and the consequent difficulties. It is through a mistake that it came to be not pressed. It was unfortunate. But yesterday when going through the town I understood that the distress is still continuing. For that matter, as long as the distress continues, the matter, must be considered urgent and of recent occurrence. In such circumstances, I want to know whether Adjournment Motions could be moved on every day as long as the grievance continues and it remains unredressed. It is a different thing to say that when we criticise the policy of the Government.....

PRESIDENT: The matter has been considered both in Parliament and in the Assembly more than once. If a matter does not arise between the first day of the meeting of the Legislature and the day on which the particular adjournment motion is moved then it is not considered urgent and of public importance so as to be moved on succeeding days. If, for instance the scarcity of text books arose after the first day, between Monday and Wednesday, then of course, the Honourable Member will be in order in moving the adjournment motion today. Otherwise, especially having regard to the fact that the Honourable Member himself by moving the formal adjournment motion realises that the matter was anterior to the first day of the meeting of the House and therefore it is not an urgent matter enabling it to be moved as an adjournment motion to day. That is the ruling on the point of order. But having regard to the importance to the matter I shall allow the Director of of Public Instruction to make a statement.

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Some of the text books are printed in the Government Press and others by private agencies. I have taken great care, as soon as the texts were prescribed for this year, to invite the publishers attention to the fact that the books should be ready as soon as possible after the re-opening of the schools. Honourable Members may be aware that it is not possible in these days to get sufficient paper immediately. It will take some time. Further, one point which has come as a great surprise to most of us is the larger number of students in the English Schools. Usually we make allowance for ten or fifteen per cent increase year after year. But the Honourable

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Members might have noticed that this year the increase has been much more than what was anticipated. In some schools there are 50 per cent and 60 per cent increase. One reason for this, I gather from the Inspecting Officers, is that people are anxious to send their children to learn English as they have got more money to pay. So they would rather go to study English than continue in Malayalam Schools. Another reason I heard was that when the reforms will come into operation there will be no difference between English and Malayalam or Tamil Schools. So let us have the better one they say and they think that English Schools are better. These things were not anticipated. When we usually budget for five thousand copies, there is a demand for eight thousand and nine thousand copies. They print 8000 copies and still the demand is not satisfied. I may also inform the Honourable House that when I went to Madras on University business I made it a point to go to every Firm of Publishers and gave personal instructions that the books should be printed and supplied as soon as possible. As a token of their having re-printed the books in 1945, I wanted them to send me a copy in advance. I may inform the Honourable Members that most of those books have already arrived and they will be available for sale to the students very soon.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: What about the text books that are printed in the Government Press? I understant that only a limited number of readers have been printed.

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: If we take into consideration the large number of text books that they have to print and the very limited time at their disposal we can have an idea of the difficulty. It is not the Government Press that has to be blamed as the people who buy the text books from the Government Press. Many people get thousands and thousands of copies of text books. I do not know where they have gone. Supposing you take statistics—I am unable to do it at this stage—you will find that so many sellers have bought so many copies of text books. This morning I heard the instance of a person who sold a book for Rs. 5 when the book costs only Re. 1 or Re. 1 as. 4. If people corner and conceal the books to sell them at heavy prices, Government cannot certainly cope with the demand. I may inform the Honourable Members that the Government Press is at work even during holidays and late at night. I have been sending requisitions after requisitions to the Government Press for more and more copies. Hither to the balance statements have been taken only once a month. But I am asking the Government Press to give information of weekly balances. From them I find that they are printing at the average rate of 30,000 to 40,000 copies a fortnight.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: The mistake lies not on the Director, but on the Government Press. That is what we mean.

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: I can also to be blamed. I am in a way responsible for the number of copies to be printed. I can go only by the sales. I have before me the statistics of books sold in 1118 and 1119. But the 1120 calculations absolutely went beyond all expectations. We can only go by the number of copies sold in the previous year.

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MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know the date on which the text books for this year were prescribed?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: My memory is not good enough. I think it was sufficiently early. Is the question intended to know whether there was time enough for the books to be printed and got ready for sale in the market.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: Will he believe me when I say that the books were prescribed only 3 or 4 days before the re-opening of the schools?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: I am positive about it. It is not 3 or 4 days. I carefully ascertained the possibility of getting the books printed and ready for sale soon after the re-opening of the schools before I got those books prescribed. The publishers promised that the books will be ready for sale in the market within 2 weeks after the schools.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the honourable member enquire whether large consignments of books are bought by book-sellers with the connivance of the employees of the Government Press?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: If these book sellers had an atom of sympathy for the poor pupils this kind of thing would not have happened. We have no legislation to prevent such things. Honourable Members may rest assured that next year such things will not happen. For the present we can only believe in the bonafides of the publishers. They give ready money for the books they get. They are not given books on credit. People buy 15,000 and 20,000 copies. If you look at the sales in the Government Press you will find that books worth several lakhs of Rupees have been sold. I do not know how they are disposed of.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: The member was saying that he knew the instance of a man selling a book for Rs. 5 when it costs only Re. 1. Having known that, did he send a report to Government and ask their advice on the matter?

PRESIDENT: I have received very serious complaints on the matter and one of the reasons why I allowed the statement to be made and the discussion to go on is for the purpose of emphasising certain aspects of the matter. As in the case of food stuffs, as in the case of textiles, there is an active black marketing carried on in the matter of text books. Government have been made painfully aware of the fact that there are certain unsympathetic book sellers who buy large quantities of books, corner them and send them to various corners of the country to be sold at fancy prices. Government will see that such abuses do not take place hereafter. Government wish to give this warning that if such a thing takes place, the publishing business may have to be wound up and that Government will have to take up the full responsibility of distributing them through their own official agencies throughout the State.

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That is a thing which the Government are most reluctant to do, because publishing business is enterprising and in its initial stage in this State. But if things of this sort are done the time would come when Government will have to take away the selling business from those persons and distribute the books through their own official agency.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. C. O. Karunakaran, Superintendent, Public Health Laboratory took the oath and signed the Rolls.

DISCUSSION ON BUNCHY TOP DISEASE OF BANANAS (*contd*).

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture*): Yesterday I was mentioning to this Honourable House that firstly what is known as the Bunchy top disease of bananas is caused by a virus. Secondly the incubation period of this disease varies from any thing like 3 weeks to 10 weeks with the result that it is impossible to detect whether a particular plant has been effected or not. Thirdly, no cure has been so far found for this disease. All that has been possible for scientists to do is to segregate the area affected and destroy the plants, both healthy and diseased within that area and prohibit the planting of fresh suckers there for a period of one year. Certain measures were adopted in Australia, New South Wales and Queensland where the disease spread widely. The control of this disease in the State first engaged the serious attention of the Applied Biology Sub-Committee. This committee discussed all aspects of the problem at a meeting held on the 5th June and adopted the following resolutions.

(1) that immediate steps be taken to destroy within the course of four weeks all the plantian trees in the affected area :—

(2) that the cultivation of plantains in the area be prohibited for a period of one year.

(3) that other parts of the State be watched to ascertain whether there are any other focii of infection.

These resolutions were duly submitted to the Council of Research at its meeting held on 8th June 1945, and were accepted by the Council. The measures that we have taken so far are only of a palliative nature. I have already indicated that inspite of all the measures taken for the control of the disease, it has not been possible to eradicate it so far. It has spread over an area of roughly 220 sq. miles. On the eastern side, the disease has spread to the borders of the hills. Once the disease gets into the hills and infects the jungle plantains also, the problem of its complete eradication will become practically a super human and impossible task. The situation is some what alarming. Sir, in view of the seriousness of the disease and the extreme urgency of the matter and the colossal loss it is likely to cause if not arrested, I request that the honourable members of this House will kindly lend their support for implementing these resolutions. It is hardly necessary for me to say that unless immediate steps are taken not only will there be total devastation of the beautiful plantain gardens that we have in this country, but also the utter annihilation of this most important industry in the course of two or three decades.

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